(c) College-wise teacher-student ratio as prevalent in the States is not centrally maintained.

(d) Funds for recruitment of teachers is provided by the concerned State Government.

Revision of age for compulsory education

2692. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the age-limit for compulsory education is being proposed at 14 years; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether he wants the common children to go upto standard 8th only; and

(c) the reasons for not revising the age-limit upto 18 years which is adequate for matriculation and also reaching voting right stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Article 21A, as inserted by the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002, provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. Accordingly, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008 which represents the consequential legislation, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 2008. The Bill, *inter-alia,* provides that every child in the age group of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 20th July, 2009.

Establishment of regional language centre in Darjeeling

†2693. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the centres for regional languages in the country;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to promote the languages recognized; and

(c) whether Government proposes to establish a regional language centre at Darjeeling to promote Nepalese language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Presently there are seven Regional Language Centres (RLC) of Central Institute of Indian Languages(CIIL), Mysore and these centres are at Mysore, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Patiala, Solan, Pune and Lucknow.

RLCs are established for propagation and promotion of the languages included in the Schedule VIII of Constitution of India. Besides imparting training to in-service teachers and others at the RLCs, they also conduct programmes like National Integration Camps, Orientation Courses, Workshops

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

etc. in different parts of the country for promotion of these languages. The Centres are also taking up projects for producing teaching materials and other aids in these languages.

(c) Nepali language is one of the four languages being taught at Regional Languages Centre, Guwahati. There is no proposal at present for opening a separate RLC for Nepali at Darjeeling.

School dropout ratio in Rajasthan

2694. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOUSCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the school dropout rate in number and percentage in Rajasthan at primary, secondary and senior secondary level;

(b) how does it compare with National and other States' statistics;

(c) whether it is higher in rural areas, particularly in case of girls, SC/ST/OBC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government is contemplating to improve the scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per information available with the Ministry, the dropout rate during 2006-07 at primary, upper-primary and secondary level, particularly in case of girls, SC and ST of Rajasthan compared with National average are given as under:-

	Primary Stage (Classes I-V)		Upper Primary Stage (Classes I-VIII)		Secondary Stage (Classes I-X)	
	All India	Rajasthan	All India	Rajasthan	All India	Rajasthan
All Categories	25.4	40.6	46.0	62.3	59.9	73.6
Girls	26.6	45.0	45.3	67.3	61.5	79.3
SC Students	35.9	49.6	53.0	65.0	69.0	81.2
ST Students	33.1	38.4	62.5	59.7	78.7	77.7

The dropout rate at senior secondary stage are not been calculated by the Ministry. Annual class-wise enrolment figures are not available for urban and rural areas and OBC separately, and therefore dropout rates for these cannot be calculated separately.

(e) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universal elementary education. This includes, *inter-alia*, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, teacher grants, regular training and academic support of teachers. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at harnessing community support, providing flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, inclusion of children with special needs, and special provisions to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) and National Programme for Education